ARECANUT GROWERS IN THE STATE

493. Mr. V. R. Kishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many arecanut growers are there in the State ;

(*b*) what was the total quantity of arecanuts produced in the State for 1120;

(*c*) what is quantity exported from the State ;

(*d*) what is the quantity that was allowed in 1120 for duty free consumption by roducers ;

(*e*) what is actual extent of area under arecanut cultivation.

(*f*) what is total annual land revenue assessment on the arecanut gardens in the State ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) 30,062.

(*b*) 1,06,613 mds.

(*c*) 83,725 mds.

(*d*) 9,452 mds. (at the rate of 2,000 nuts per grower's family).

(*e*) 24,287 acres.

(*f*) It is not possible to give the exact amount of Land Revenue Assessment on areca garden alone as many gardens contain taxable trees other than areca trees and the assessment thereon is based on the number of taxable trees.

MATERNITY WARD AND LADY DOCTORS

494. Mrs. T. Francis *(Women's-Ernakulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

whether the maternity ward is being looked after at all hours of the day by lady doctors ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Governmen):* A lady doctor is in charge of the maternity ward, but in her off-time and during night, the duty medical officer attends to emergencies, unless he finds a lady doctor's presence is necessary.

PRAWNS IN THE STATE—PARTICULARS OF EXPORT, ETC.

465. Mr. P. T. Jacob *(Latin-Christians Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to atate.—

(*a*) whether iced fish or prawns were allowed to be exported from our State in the year 1120 and now ;

(*b*) is dried fish allowed to be exported and if so why ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Iced fish was not allowed to be exported. Iced prawns were allowed to be exported in the year 1120, but not now.

(*b*) There is not sufficient demand in the State for some varieties of dried fish. Again as regards other varieties of dried fish the entire quantity produced is not consumed here. It is the surplus stocks under the above varieties for which there is no sufficient demand here that are allowed to be exported.

SEA EROSIONS

496. Dr. S. S. Rao *(Nominated) :* Will Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether steps have been taken to get the question of Sea erosions properly investigated, by the Central Government Erosion Expert ;

(*b*) if not why ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) and (*b*) The protection works for coast erosion have been designed on the lines of a similar protective works done by the Harbour authorities in Cochin and they are being executed after consulting them. The best advice on this subject has been secured and it is not considered necessary to consult any other body.

FRANCHISE—MUNICIPALITIES

497. Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when was the present Municipal franchise fixed ;

(*b*) did Government at any time consider the question of introducing adult franchise for Municipal elections ;

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